

**N. C. Department of Correction
Offender Transition/Reentry Workplan Update
March 5, 2004
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Office of Research and Planning**

In June 2003, the Department of Correction produced an Offender Transition/Reentry Workplan. The plan was the result of a planning process involving the operational divisions and support sections of the Department. After Nicole Sullivan, with the Office of Research and Planning, finalized the plan, each division and section appointed a coordinator to monitor implementation of the plan. The coordinators include:

- (1) Division of Prisons – Norma Batten
- (2) Division of Community Corrections – Tim Moose
- (3) Division of Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency Programs – Jennifer Rounds-Bryant
- (4) DOP Mental Health Services – Laura Yates
- (5) DOP Educational Services – Rose True
- (6) DOP Transition Aftercare Network – Melvin Solomon
- (7) Correction Enterprises – Phil Rowe
- (8) Management Information Systems – Bob Brinson
- (9) Public Information Office – Keith Acree
- (10) Engineering – Dale Aiken

The coordinators met and adopted an action plan format to monitor implementation of the Transition/Reentry Plan. Coordinators submit periodic updates to their division/section plans. Highlights of division and section transition/reentry activities to date follow:

Division of Prisons

- All facilities have updated their transition policies and standard operating procedures. These revisions are under review and will be approved by the end of March.
- DOP is developing a closer working relationship with DCC by notifying all DCC managers about DOP regional managers and regional program coordinators' meetings, and encouraging them to attend meetings periodically.
- DOP facility staff who is involved with the Going Home project attended the Going Home training conference in High Point.
- DOP is developing a video that discusses transition issues for inmates, family members and staff.

DOP Education Services

- Educational Services staff created transition coordinator positions in two DPI-funded programs for the FY 03-04 school year.

- Education Services hosted a transition services training symposium Oct. 9-10, 2003 which was well-attended.

DOP Mental Health Services

- DOP Mental Health Services staff revised the DOP policy on aftercare planning for health services inmates to emphasize coordination with programs staff and services for education and/or vocational preparation. The revised policy includes targeting the most needy inmates for increased services prior to release.
- DOP Mental Health Services staff developed and provided numerous presentations to internal and external staff to clarify the role of mental health staff in transition services.
- DOP Mental Health Services participated in meetings of the N.C. Partners in Justice Project, N. C. Mental Health Planning Council, N. C. DD Council, and the N. C. Interagency Council to Coordinate Homeless Programs and discussed coordination of services for special needs inmates at release.

DOP Transition Services

- The TAN director is attending regional DOP meetings and is working with local facilities to apprise Community Resource Councils of transition initiatives.

Division of Community Corrections

- The DCC Administrative Office has recommended revisions for the policies regarding post-release supervision and transition services. The policies are currently under review.
- The DCC Administrative Office has assigned JDMs and CPPOs to the Going Home Cluster teams and they are attending the meetings.
- Probation officers, CPPOs, and JDMs involved with the Going Home project attended the Going Home Training conference in High Point.
- Instructions were added to the DCC OPUS manual on the use of the AA01 common offender record screen and it is being discussed at meetings.
- DCC is using its division and district strategy team meetings to discuss ways to share information on offenders with other agencies.

Division of Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency Services

- DACDP provided training on a new treatment curriculum at Morrison Correctional Institution, which included DOP custody and program staff.
- DACDP worked with DOP staff to implement the SASSI screening instrument in Diagnostic Centers to better match inmates to treatment resources.

- DACDP is creating multi-disciplinary teams to manage offenders more effectively. These teams include DOP case managers, other program staff, mental health staff, medical staff, and diagnostic center staff.

Public Affairs Office

- The PIO is attending transition/reentry meetings, including the Going Home training conference, to gather news, become familiar with policies and procedures, and meet field and community partner staff involved in transition services.
- The PIO published the first edition of Transition News in November 2003 and is currently compiling materials for a second edition.
- The PIO continues to respond to media inquiries concerning transition services. Transition and faith-based services have been an area of particular media interest since President Bush proposed new federal funding for transition programs in the 2004 State of the Union address.

Correction Enterprises

- Correction Enterprises staff reached an agreement with Harnett Correctional Institution to provide an educational component for the welding apprenticeship program at Brown Creek.
- Correction Enterprises worked with DOL to develop a process for registering inmates in apprenticeship programs.
- Correction Enterprises management is working with DOP leadership to identify additional spaces for industries.
- Correction Enterprises staff consulted with DOL staff regarding the instruction portion of the Reupholstery Plant Apprenticeship Program.
- Correction Enterprise staff is discussing staff resources needed to cover classroom requirements for an apprenticeship program with Catawba Valley Community College.
- Corrections Enterprises staff is working with MIS staff to develop an application to identify the best-qualified inmates for skilled jobs. A module is being tested.

Central Engineering

- Central Engineering is identifying work opportunities for the Inmate Construction Program. The ICP will act as a subcontractor to Centex to construct the perimeter and all other fencing at the next 3 1,000-bed facilities.
- The Director of Central Engineering is participating in the development of the Division of Prisons' 10-year capacity plan, and is identifying potential work projects in the plan for the Inmate Construction Program.
- Central engineering staff is working with MIS to improve identification of inmates for the ICP in OPUS, including programming and skill information.

Management Information Systems

- MIS developed a lock-down solution to computers used by inmates; this solution is in place in the Print Plant. This is the protocol that will be used on inmate-accessible workstations used for job searches.
- MIS developed network architecture to preclude inmates from surfing the Web while they are accessing the ESC job search site.
- MIS worked with the Job Start II program to change OPUS to use the more current O-NET job codes. This reduces the number of codes from approximately 15,000 to about 1,000, makes coding inmate skill information more straightforward, and reconciles DOC job codes to industry standard.
- MIS developed a Web-based job skills search for use by DOC staff. It allows inmate selection by various criteria. It can be used by Engineering, DOP, and DACDP.
- MIS improved OPUS by reducing the number of places where work skills are entered from 3 places to 1. This will reduce entry time and centralize where the work skills are located.